



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Patent and Trademark Office**

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/147,237 04/20/99 YAGI

E TOS-123-USA

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WASHINGTON DC 20005

HM12/0725

EXAMINER
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PRATS, E	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1651

DATE MAILED:

07/25/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

**Advisory Action**

Application No.

09/147,237

Applicant(s)

YAGI ET AL.

Examiner

Francisco C Prats

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1651

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 25 June 2001 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

**PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]**

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.  
b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.  
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on \_\_\_\_\_. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.  
2. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:  
(a) ☐ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);  
(b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);  
(c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or  
(d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): \_\_\_\_\_.  
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).  
5. ☒ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☒ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: see attachment.  
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.  
7. ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☐ will not be entered or b) ☒ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: \_\_\_\_\_

Claim(s) objected to: \_\_\_\_\_

Claim(s) rejected: 1-4 and 15-17.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: \_\_\_\_\_

8. ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.  
10. ☐ Other:

Francisco C Prats  
Primary Examiner  
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**ATTACHMENT TO ADVISORY ACTION**

1. The after-final amendment filed June 25, 2001, has been received and will be entered. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code, not included in this action can be found in a prior office action.

2. All of applicant's argument regarding the pending grounds of rejection has been fully considered but is not persuasive of error. It is respectfully submitted that the N'Guyen reference is properly held to anticipate and/or render obvious the pending claims. It is noted that the reference refers to a "complexing agent-thiol couple". It is also noted that coupling reactions are known in the art.

However, as pointed out in the previous office action, there is nothing in the reference indicating that the glutathione and the EDTA complexing agent were subjected to conditions such that the two agents would be "coupled" through covalent bonding, or through electrostatic interaction, or any other type of binding, as alleged by applicant. Note that the *Fessenden et al* textbook reference at pages 228 and 240 clearly shows that one must generate free radical species to effect a coupling reaction. Moreover, *Fessenden* also demonstrates at page 498 that coupling reactions may involve the coupling of

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aniline or aniline derivatives. The N'Guyen reference does not mention any free-radical-generating reactions, and neither glutathione nor EDTA is an aniline or aniline derivative.

Rather than being covalently coupled, the EDTA and glutathione are simply added together into a composition under conditions which would not generate any covalent coupling as alleged by applicant. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the term "couple" in the N'Guyen reference does not mean covalent bonding as alleged by applicant. Rather, it is respectfully submitted that the term "couple" simply refers to the combined action of the two agents on the ascorbyl palmitate in N'Guyen's composition.

Further still, and contrary to applicant's argument, it is respectfully pointed out that the MPEP clearly places upon applicant the burden of establishing that the additional ingredients in prior art compositions or processes materially affect the basic and novel properties of inventions recited in "consisting essentially of" terminology. As discussed in the previous office action, MPEP 2111.03 explicitly provides that "[w]hen an applicant contends that additional steps or materials in the prior art are excluded by the recitation of 'consisting essentially of,' applicant has the burden of showing that the introduction of additional steps or components would materially

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change the characteristics of applicant's invention." In this regard note specifically that the operability of the N'Guyen patent is not being challenged. Rather, it is respectfully submitted that viewing the disclosure of the reference as a whole, it is evident that the ingredients in addition to glutathione in N'Guyen's composition do not bind with the glutathione in a manner which materially affects the action of the glutathione. That is, applicant's construction of the term "couple" as requiring covalent bonding is not consistent with the remainder of the disclosure in the N'Guyen reference. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of record are properly maintained.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Francisco C Prats whose telephone number is 703-308-3665. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, with alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Wityshyn can be reached on 703-308-4743. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned

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are 703-305-3014 for regular communications and 703-305-3014 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.



Francisco C Prats  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1651

FCP  
July 24, 2001